

I am outraged at Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. It is a clear example of the abuses of media consolidation, and a clear violation of the once-enforced laws which required the media to provide equal representation for fair elections.

Since Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, its attempts to control the airwaves, and its failure to provide crucial and often life-saving local news (instead of centralized national news), as well as meaningful and balanced news about issues that really affect the future of our communities and nation, is essential.

Sinclair's actions are a blatant example of why we need to curb this level of media consolidation; the dissemination of information is an important public responsibility and should not be left to the self-interest of giant corporations alone to determine. They have little or no social agenda. They are not responsible for and little interest in the oversight or improvement of our social systems. It is the responsibility of the government, which is an elected body (including of course the appointees of elected officials) and not a private corporation, to protect regulations which ensure a fair discursive field and a vibrant democracy. Whether we are Republicans or Democrats, (unless one really believes being Republican is identical to serving short-term and short-sighted corporate bottom lines alone), we must realize that a free press--which means balanced political use of public airwaves--is essential to a free democracy--the democracy our children deserve. Thank you.